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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JAN 30 2008****ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A material based on SiAlON contain 70-97 vol.% of alpha and beta-SiAlON and an amorphous or partially crystalline grain boundary phase and 3 to 30 vol.% of a hard material. The material has an alpha-SiAlON gradient which decreases from the outside to the inside.